

WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENCE.

No. VII.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21, 1837.

The House of Representatives was the theatre of an excitement that has not been equaled since the days of the Revolution. As I am quite ill, I must relate the affair with all possible brevity.

Mr. Slade of Vermont, got the floor on a motion to refer an abolition petition to a select committee, and took advantage of the occasion to deliver a long speech on the subject of negro slavery in all its phases. Mr. Legare of South Carolina, at the onset, implored Mr. Slade to forego his speech—or at any rate to take one night to consider of its consequences. Mr. Slade would not yield, but went on.

A great many Southern gentlemen rose, one after the other, and made every effort to get Mr. Slade off the floor, but without success.

At last, when the House had become excited beyond endurance, Mr. Wise rose and proposed that the Virginia delegation should quit the hall. The proposition was agreed to, and all the slave-holding States followed the example. A question of order was raised at last, and Mr. Slade was required to take his seat; but before the question was decided, House adjourned.

Immediately thereafter, Mr. Campbell of South Carolina, invited the delegation from the slave-holding States to meet in convention at 6 o'clock.

The invitation was accepted, and the committee (John M. Patton, president, and F. S. Lyon, of Alabama, secretary) sat till late this morning.

It adopted the celebrated Piquette resolutions, and took some other steps, the nature of which I am not at liberty to divulge.

The signs of the times point to a dissolution of the Union. Sick, and in haste,

I am yours, &c.

No. VIII.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22, 1837.

Yesterday morning, Mr. Patton of Virginia, in behalf of the Southern delegation in Congress, reported to the House of Representatives, a resolution declaratory, that hereafter, all petitions, memorials, and other papers, relating in any way to the subject of slavery, shall be laid on the table, without being read, printed, or debated.

Mr. Patton said, that as he was not disposed to get up a debate on the subject, and sought nothing but the peace and tranquility of the country, he should demand the previous question. The demand being sustained, the resolution was adopted by a vote of 122 to 74.

Thus, you will see, that the exciting subject of slavery has been put to rest for the session, and I hope it may not be renewed hereafter.

The resolution of Mr. Patton was a transcript of one proposed by Mr. Piquette of South Carolina, in the year 1836, and adopted at that time. It was then denounced by the Southern whigs, but yesterday they voted for it.

All the administration party of the north voted for it—all the whigs from that section of the country opposed it. The rest of the day was spent in listening to a speech by Mr. Underwood of Kentucky, against the message.

The Senate occupied itself in considering a bill for the better government of the District of Columbia. Yours, &c.

No. IX.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26, 1837.

Messrs Prentiss and Word arrived here yesterday, to contest the seats now held in Congress by Messrs Claiborne and Gholson. They, to-day, presented themselves to the committee on Elections, and it is probable we shall have a report in a few weeks.

The majority of that committee, will report that no cause of contest exists; the minority will take an opposite course. It cannot be supposed for a moment, that the gentlemen will be allowed to take seats.

Yesterday was Christmas, and of course the proceedings of Congress, to-day, have been somewhat desultory and irregular.

Mr. John Q. Adams has quarrelled with the speaker and every body else; and four or five times has been ordered to take his seat.

A motion to refer a petition from the Peace society of Philadelphia, praying Congress to refer our difficulties with Mexico to friendly arbitration, gave rise to the debate in which Mr. Adams participated, and raised the dust—as usual.

The subject was debated till a late hour, and yet it was not disposed of when the House adjourned.

The Senate has been engaged with a bill to restrain the circulation of small notes in the District of Columbia. Yours, &c.

No. X.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27, 1837.

The second set of representatives, which Mississippi has elected and sent to Washington, made their appearance to-day. The case was referred to the committee on Elections. The affair may thus be considered settled, and Messrs Prentiss and Word, beyond all doubt, will be rejected.

Yours, &c.

REPORT OF THE BANK COMMISSIONERS.—The 10th inst. is the day appointed for the Bank Commissioners to make their report to the Legislature. This document is looked for with a high degree of interest.

Mr. Beane, President of the Board of Commissioners, is now in this city, (Jackson) laboriously engaged in preparing the report, and from his known ability and devoted attention to the duties of his office, we may anticipate a full development of the banking machinery of the State, together with a variety of valuable suggestions in relation to the financial condition of the country, and the course most advisable to pursue in future.

Messrs Calhoun and M'Laren, are not here at present, but are daily expected.—[Communicated.]

DESCRIPTION OF A NEWSPAPER.—A newspaper is a bill of fare, containing a variety of dishes, suited to the different tastes and appetites of those who sit down to the entertainment.

Politics are beef steaks, palatable to almost every one. Those who prefer the rare done, choose them from France. Congress and Legislative news are stuffed meats.

Electrotyping is venison. Essays, humorous, speculative, moral and divine, are a fine broiled dish, from which, by a happy commixture of meat and vegetables, a diet is obtained, nutritious, agreeable and healthy.

Ballads and love ditties are plump puddings. Anecdotes, conundrums and epigrams are spiced and mustard. Sometimes there comes along a Printer's dun—that is soured cream and currant tart.

THE CROPS IN ATTAKAPAS.—A gentleman arrived yesterday from this section, informs us that the sugar crops will not yield so much by one half as last year. The planters were sanguine, however, of making up for the deficiency, by an increase in the price of the article.—N. O. Picayune.

LEGISLATURE OF MISSISSIPPI.

JACKSON, Jan. 1st, 1838.

To-day there was a general greeting, kind wishes and a "happy new year" passed many lips. At ten o'clock in the morning a general move was made towards the State house. The weather was charming; the beauty of the summer months prevailed, and members were seen in squads in all directions, previous to the organization of the Legislature.

At twelve o'clock the Senate was called to order, Mr. Alsbury taking the chair; the new Senators were qualified and took their seats.

Mr. Hallam presented credentials from sundry returning officers of his district, composed of the counties of Bolivar, Coahoma, Desoto, Tunica, &c. and claimed a seat, when Col. Byle, of Marshall, presented the certificate of election from the Secretary of State, which awarded the seat to Felix H. Walker, who was detained in consequence of a broken arm, occasioned by the overturning of the Vicksburg Stage.

The President pro tempore decided that he must administer the oath to Mr. H. and have the controversy settled by the committee of elections.

Mr. Hallam is a whig, and voted for Col. Bingham as president.

Several ballottings were had; Hon. T. M. Tucker of our county was the democratic candidate, but he failed to get a majority of all the votes; after spending the day in fruitless efforts to select a presiding officer, the Senate adjourned.

In the house, Col. Phillips of Madison, presided, and qualified the representatives in that branch of the Legislature.

On the first ballot for Speaker, Dr. Hancock of De Soto, Gen. A. G. Brown of Copiah, and Dr. King of Itawamba, were the prominent candidates.

No one got a majority of the whole, and the house adjourned without effecting an election.

TUESDAY, JAN. 2.

In the Senate, Col. Bingham was chosen president by a majority of one, several democratic votes for him, in consequence of his great personal popularity, and others from his intimate knowledge with parliamentary usages gained by long service in the Legislature.

Jas. M. Downs was chosen Secretary. The usual committees were chosen to wait on the Governor and the House of Representatives and inform them that the Senate had organized, and were ready to proceed to business.

Mr. Walker presented his credentials and the evidence relative to the contested election was referred to a special committee, consisting of Messrs. Tucker, Boyd and Alsbury.

A few motions and resolutions of an important character were introduced, and the Senate adjourned.

The House of Representatives again proceeded to the election of a speaker; after nine tedious ballottings, Dr. King was elected by a majority of one over A. G. Brown, Dr. Hancock having withdrawn his name.

It was unfortunate for the democrats that we had two candidates in the field. Our candidates jointly had a large majority; on the last ballot but one, Dr. Hancock had 34 votes, A. G. Brown 17, making 51 democratic votes in the house, while the whig candidate, Dr. King, had only 34.

Local feeling was the cause of the success of Dr. King. The Speaker made a neat and appropriate address, on taking the chair. Chas. W. Price was elected clerk.

The house being organized, committees were appointed to act with those on the part of the Senate, to wait upon his excellency, &c. several resolutions were introduced; one by Mr. Wright, of Lowndes, for the election of a United States Senator on Thursday next.

Col. Phillips of Madison introduced the Union Bank bill, which was read the first time, and five thousand copies ordered to be printed. Nothing else of importance transpired.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 3d.

Fears were entertained by the honorable members to-day for the safety of their heads. The old state house was considerably enlarged, by the erection of a wooden building in the rear, and two large arches were cut in the wall, which it was supposed had so much weakened the structure, as to render it unsafe.

Committees on the part of both houses, were immediately appointed to examine the building, and negotiate for other rooms. Nothing was done of any importance in consequence of the time consumed in this matter, save the reading of the Union Bank charter a second time.

The members from Lowndes county do credit to their stations. They are industrious and attentive to the business of their constituents. Senator Tucker is now laboriously engaged in drawing up the report of the special Committee on the contested election. It is not arrogating too much for Mr. Tucker, to say that he will be one of the leading members of that body.

THURSDAY, JAN. 4.

The weather continues delightful and things have become a little settled at the seat of Government. Private families have opened their doors to a houseless, and those who in the early part of the week could hardly get a post to lean against, have now comfortable quarters.

Mr. J. M. Downs, of our county, is a respectable private family, where we were surprised every day. The bright eyes of beauty too, and the soft tones of music "lend enchantment to the scene."

At eleven o'clock the Senate proceeded to the Representatives Hall for the purpose of electing a public printer and sergeant-at-arms.

The State house in the mean time had been securely propped up and all danger from that source ceased to exist in the minds of the members.

Gov. Lynch transmitted to both houses, his last message, by his private secretary, Mr. R. Dudley, Esq., the reading of which was dispensed with until the election of public printer was over.

On coming the ballots, it appeared that B. D. Howard, editor of the Mississippiian, had a majority of SEVENTEEN over his whig competitor.

Major Craft was elected sergeant-at-arms. The Senate retired to their chamber. Mr. Farnt has introduced a bill in the Senate relative to limited copartnerships, which I understand contains several important provisions.

A joint committee has been appointed to take up the Revised Code. Mr. Butler of Lowndes is one of the number—he is determined to give this important matter his deliberate attention; from the well known zeal and industry of Mr. Butler, we may safely predict that something will be done towards putting the statutes in a shape which the people can understand.

At present, we in fact have no statutes at all; many of the provisions have been repealed, while others come directly in conflict, and so many changes have been made in the laws of our State, that it would be better to blot out and begin a new.

Both houses met in the evening, and counted the votes for Governor; the result is already known to your readers; it may not be improper however to remark, that A. G. McNutt was declared duly and constitutionally elected Governor of the State of Mississippi, in the Hall of the Representatives of the people.

The Senate retired to their chamber, and the Representatives listened to the Governor's message, which was read in an emphatic manner by WILLIAM NEED, Esq., the late able editor of the Paudling Clarion, now reading clerk to the house.

On motion of Mr. Portis of Kemper, ten thousand copies were ordered to be printed for distribution among the people.

It is amusing to hear the emphasis placed on the age when the vote occurs for an adjournment.

Our honorable Representatives dislike confinement for any length of time. The documents accompanying the message were not read.

They contain valuable information relative to the boundary line between Mississippi and Tennessee, the substance of which I will endeavor to communicate in a few days.

Business will not commence until after the inauguration of the Governor.

The dry and tedious details of legislation will then come on, and from the business like character of the Legislature we may hope that much will be done for the people of the State.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5.

In the Senate, Mr. Tucker, from the special committee to whom was referred the contested election of Messrs. F. H. Walker and Mr. Hallam, from the district composed of the counties of Bolivar, Coahoma, De Soto, &c. reported in favor of the claim of Mr. Walker.

The Governor's message was then read to the Senate, and the remainder of the day consumed in reverting certain portions of it to standing and select committees.

In the House, Mr. Sanders introduced a joint resolution, requesting our Senators and Representatives in Congress to vote for the establishment of a National Bank, which was, by the rules of the House laid on the table one day.

Several petitions, resolutions and bills of a local nature were introduced, of no interest to the readers of the Democrat.

A message was received from the Governor containing Senator Black's resignation, which takes place after the 21st inst., relative to a ms purchased for the use of the State, also as to the compensation of the commissioners who run the boundary line between Mississippi and Tennessee. [Charge \$14,000.]

The House then took up the resolution in relation to a United States Senator for six years from the 4th March, 1839.

Mr. Brown of Copiah objected to the resolution on the ground that the representative had not the right to anticipate the will of his constituents, and although he was opposed to a National Bank, he could not tell but that the minds of his constituents might change in less than twelve months.

Mr. Portis, of Kemper, supported the resolution and observed that this was the only regular session until 1840, and he did not feel disposed to have a called session for this purpose alone; he wished distinctly to be understood as opposed to a National Bank in any form, shape or scope.

Mr. Roberts, of Scott, regretted the introduction of this resolution at so early a day. One month hence would be time enough to take it up, and he therefore moved to postpone the further consideration of the subject until Monday next, which was agreed to.

Another resolution proposing to ballot for a United States Senator on Monday next to fill the place of Judge Black, was taken up.

Mr. Chilton of Vicksburg, protested against this form of proceeding; until a vacancy did exist, the constitution gave no right to the Legislature to elect.

Mr. Hancock, of De Soto, differed in opinion from Mr. C., and believed the legislature had a right now to proceed to that election.

Mr. Josselyn, of Lafayette, believed the ground taken by Chilton to be correct; as such he would vote against the resolution.

The further consideration, on motion of Mr. Williams, was postponed till Monday, and the House adjourned.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6.

The Senate was occupied to-day in the discussion of Mr. Tucker's report, which was adopted by a vote of 23 to 5.

Nothing else was done in this body but to receive the report of Judge Augustus from the committee appointed to wait on the Governor elect, who said on Monday his excellency would meet both houses in the Representatives Hall and receive the oath of office.

In the House Mr. Brown introduced a bill to permit guardians to remove the property and persons of infant wards to Texas.

This bill caused a spirited debate in which Messrs. Brown, Armat, Davis of Marshall and Josselyn took part.

The bill was rejected on its second reading. The House adjourned over till Monday.

I have thus given you a brief sketch of the proceedings of our Legislature for the first week of its session.

Mr. CALHOUN may now be considered an acknowledged supporter and advocate of Mr. Van Buren's administration; and the Charleston Mercury of the 24th inst. a journal in his particular confidence, indicates that some of his friends are ripe for an immediate declaration of hostility against "our late allies."

He already adopts the tone of the Globe, and speaks contemptuously of the "Federalists," "Consolidation" and Henry Clay's party. We copy the paragraph entire.—N. Y. Con. Eq.

PUBLIC SENTIMENT.—Frequent attempts have been made to misrepresent Mr. McDuffie's opinions, and to claim him for the Federal party, who are for merging the State Rights in the National, or Consolidation party, and harnessing South Carolina to the car of Henry Clay!

Now, we well know that Mr. McDuffie not only approves of the course of Mr. Calhoun, but is a warm advocate for it.

The same Clay party contend that the operation of the Divorce will be to crush or injure our local banks.

Now our local banks are certainly tolerably competent judges of their own interests, and we think the opinion of their Presidents ought to have some effect in determining that point; and what is the fact in Charleston?

The President of three of our city banks are in favor of the Sub-Treasury scheme. The President of the Bank of the state, and the President of the Bank of Charleston, being among the three.

Thus the representatives of the greater portion of the banking capital of our city approve the divorce.

Of the other three banks, the opinions of the remaining two we have as yet failed to learn.

As soon as we do, we shall make another and full statement of facts that ought to have influence.—Charleston Mercury.

Mexico.—The hurried departure of a courier extraordinary from the Mexican minister at Washington to his own court, has given rise to no little surmise and suspicion.

Some conjecture that the attitude of the two republics was rather threatening, and that this messenger was despatched to warn Mexico, of the approaching storm.

The real facts of the case will probably be brought by the next mail.—N. O. Paper.

COLUMBUS, MISS.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 1838.

We are authorized to announce Capt REUBEN H. GRANT as a candidate for Major General of the 4th Division.

We are authorized to announce Maj. ABRAHAM FARMER, of Noxubee county, as a candidate for Brigadier General of the 2d Brigade and 4th Division.

We are authorized to announce RICHARD S. GRATES of Starkville, as a candidate for Brigadier General of the 1st Brigade of the 4th division of Mississippi Militia, composed of the counties of Oktibbeha, Choctaw, Carroll, Yallobusha and Tallahatchie.

We are authorized to announce Gen. JAMES CARTER of Columbus, as a candidate for re-election to the office of Brigadier General of the 2d Brigade of the 4th Division of the Militia of this State.

THE TEST.—It will be seen by a reference to the proceedings of the Legislature on the fourth instant, that the democratic candidate for public printer succeeded by a majority of seventeen.

We confess we are pleased at this result; Mr. Howard has been the unwavering opponent of the system of banking as pursued in this State.

"The Mississippiian" has been one of the boldest and most fearless prints and on all occasions has not hesitated to proclaim to the world the true principles of Democracy as contradistinguished from the amalgamated decalogue of modern whiggery.

The success of the whigs in electing a President of the Senate and Speaker of the House, is to be attributed to a compromise of local feeling, and is therefore no test of party strength.

The Democratic majority will range from sixteen to twenty on all questions of a partisan character.

The democrats are determined to unite either upon Gwin or Trotter, and the election of a democratic senator is therefore placed beyond a doubt.

COL. G. GILSON.

We are extremely sorry to learn that our Representative Col. Gilson is confined to his room by severe indisposition.

A late letter from Washington informs us that he is in a very critical state, and is extremely reduced.

The Washington Globe of the 20th ult. states that "Col. GILSON, of the Mississippi Delegation in the House of Representatives, is confined to his room by a serious attack of inflammatory rheumatism, which will account for his non-attendance in his seat during the past week."

THE CHANCERY COURT, Judge Turner presiding, opened at Jackson on Monday, the first inst.

The chancellor informs us that there is a large amount of business before this tribunal for adjudication, and it will probably remain in session for some time.

The High Court of Errors and Appeals is now in session at the seat of Government.

Judge Pray was commissioned by the Governor last week. Judges Wright and Sharkey are present.

The Bench of our Supreme Court combines as much talent as that of any state in the Union.

LAWYERS.—The following young gentlemen were on Saturday last, licensed to practice law in the various courts of this State by the High Court of Errors and Appeals: viz. H. L. Tousley, Q. D. Gibbs, John M. Rose, Henry S. Hutchinson, N. D. Coleman, A. J. Paxton, James C. Weeks, Reuben Davis, B. Magoffin, Calhoun, Dulaney and Mason.

Mr. PORTIS of Kemper, introduced a resolution on Thursday the 4th inst. for the purpose of obtaining an expression of the Legislature relative to the bankrupt law for corporations or bankers.

This matter will elicit a spirited debate. Mr. Portis is a young man of talent, great discrimination and a good debater.

The democrats of Kemper could not have found a better representative.

CONTESTED ELECTION.—Our correspondents at Jackson give us glowing accounts of the debate on Mr. Tucker's report relative to the contested election, which took place in the Senate on Saturday last.

Mr. Tucker was eloquent and able in the defence of his position.

Mr. Grayson, of Yazoo, Judge Marshall, Col. Kyle, Col. Bingham and Col. Boyd took the floor on the occasion.

Col. B was clear and perspicuous, and all the speakers did credit to the State.

After the debate was concluded, Senator Tucker's report was adopted by a vote of 23 to 5, and Felix H. Walker declared constitutionally elected.

He had a large majority, but a modest whig claimed the seat in consequence of some legal informality, verily those whigs have a great deal of assurance, but it is characteristic of them—they do not hesitate to resort to any means for the sake of office.

Let us cite an instance of democratic liberality. JOHN D. FREEMAN Esq. was commissioned as District Attorney of the first District, and entered upon the discharge of his duties.

But on a minute inspection of all the votes, it turns out that his wing opponent has a small majority, and without any hesitation Mr. Freeman throws up his commission.

He is a young man of splendid talents, and great legal acquirements, and favorably known to the public as the late editor of the Grand Gulf Advertiser, and one of the most promising young lawyers in the State.

EDUCATION CONVENTION.—Our correspondent at Jackson informs us that this body was expected to meet in the State House on the eight.

The delegates from Lowndes county were in their posts.

We shall look anxiously for the result of their deliberations.

Our readers are referred to a graphic description of the New-Year's Ball at the seat of Government. It was written for the Democrat by an old friend, who is quite an amateur in such matters.

Hands off.—Young Black Hawk said he had no objections to the ladies of Boston looking at him, if they would not handle him so much.

GREAT DEMOCRATIC MEETING IN NASHVILLE, TENN.

The Nashville Union of the 23d inst. contains the proceedings of a large democratic meeting held in the city of Nashville on the 30th ult.

We have read the resolutions adopted by the meeting with the greatest interest. They breathe the true republican spirit, and satisfy us that Tennessee will soon be herself again.

We will as soon as possible publish the resolutions of the meeting. The Union thus comments upon the proceedings of the meeting:

"We have attended many assemblages of the democracy, but were never present at one where a better feeling prevailed.

All seemed intent in the good cause, and determined to use their efforts to advance its interests."

The meeting was addressed in eloquent terms by Messrs. Guild, of the Senate, Nicholson, of the House of Representatives, Cleburn, A. Ewing, and Dr. Overton.

Several appeals were made to the meeting to ascertain whether it sanctioned the recent transfer of the State to the Northern Federalists, made by Mr. Bell at Faneuil Hall—all part or lot in the matter were enthusiastically and emphatically disclaimed without a dissenting voice, and with the most unequivocal indications of disgust and indignation.

We wish Mr. Bell could have been present; he might have read his future fate in the angry countenances of his deceived constituents.

He would have seen the spirit of Tennessee has not yet become so subject as to consent to follow in the wake of Massachusetts, and that her sons are too deeply imbued with the doctrines of democracy to submit to the teachings of the blue lights and Hartford Conventionists of the North.

We view this meeting as but the commencement of proceedings on the part of the democracy of Tennessee.

The good work will be continued, we hope, until every county in the State has been fully organized, and is prepared to bring its full strength to the aid of the good of the country.

We are satisfied that a large majority of the people of this State are democrats, and that it requires nothing but activity and organization to restore Tennessee to the democratic ranks.

It is true that a personal preference for one of her sons, at the late Presidential election, has caused a momentary aberration, but the cross having passed away the effect should now cease.

There is no common tie of political feeling to bind Tennessee to the whig party—her citizens are opposed to high tariffs and extravagant appropriations for internal improvements by the general government—care nothing about anti-masonry, and abhor the abolitionists.

Of such factions and fragments of factions is the whig party made up, and so discordant are the materials composing it, that they are bound together by no tie but opposition to the administration.

With this mob party, having no one principle in common with them, the democratic citizens of Tennessee will not coalesce, for the mere purpose of enabling it to place itself in power and displace the present administration."